

Message Text

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41

ACTION ACDA-19

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00

NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20 USIA-15 IO-14

EUR-25 NEA-10 TRSE-00 SAJ-01 OIC-04 AEC-11 OMB-01

DRC-01 AECE-00 /164 W

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P R 171534Z NOV 73

FM AMEMBASSY VIENNA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 625

SECDEF WASHDC PRIORITY

INFO USMISSION NATO

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

USNMR SHAPE

USCINCEUR

C O N F I D E N T I A L VIENNA 9520

MBFR NEGOTIATIONS FROM US REP MBFR

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PARM, NATO

SUBJECT: MBFR NEGOTIATIONS: PLENARY SESSION OF NOVEMBER 15, 1973

SUMMARY. SEVENTH PLENARY MEETING WAS HELD MORNING OF NOVEMBER 15 UNDER CHAIRMANSHIP OF FRG (BEHREND). CANADIAN REP (GRANDE) PRESENTED THEME ON ASSOCIATED MEASURES (TEXT IN VIENNA 9428). BELGIAN ACTING REP (WILLOT) FOLLOWED WITH THEME ON VERIFICATION AND NON-CIRCUMVENTION (TEXT IN VIENNA 9429). CZECH REP (KLEIN) (TEXT IN IN VIENNA 9475) EMPHASIZED POSITIVE ASPECTS OF EASTERN PROPOSAL AND ABSENCE OF DIALOGUE IN CONFERENCE. CZECH REP ALSO EXPOUNDED ON METHOD OF REDUCTION, SAYING THAT REDUCTIONS MUST BE UNIT FOR UNIT AND JET FOR JET ON BASIS OF SIMILARITY OF CAPABILITY. ROMANIAN REP (ANINOIU) (TEXT IN VIENNA 9476) CONCLUDED SESSION WITH CALL FOR PARTICIPATION OF ALL INTERESTED EUROPEAN STATES IN MBFR NEGOTIATIONS WITHOUT DETAILING MODAILITY FOR DOING SO. NEXT
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PLENARY WILL BE ON TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 20. END SUMMARY.

1. CANADIAN REP AND BELGIAN ACTING REP PRESENTED THEMES ON ASSO-CIATED MEASURES (VIENNA 9428) AND VERIFICATION/NON-CIRCUMVENTION (VIENNA 9429).

2. CZECH INTERVENTION. IN SHARPER TONE THEN HAS CHARACTERIZED PREVIOUS EASTERN PRESENTATIONS, CZECH REP (TEXT VIENNA 9475) EMPHASIZED THAT SOCIALIST COUNTRIES WERE FULLY DETERMINED TO WORK SERIOUSLY TO TRY TO FIND SOLUTIONS, BUT HE LAMENTED LACK OF WESTERN RESPONSE TO EASTERN PROPOSAL. HE THOUGHT THAT "NEW ELEMENTS" SUCH AS US PROPOSAL TO WORK OUT STABILIZING MEASURES DID NOT CORRESPOND TO THE LETTER AND SPIRIT OF THE JUNE 28 COMMUNIQUE AND WOULD ONLY DIVERT PARTICIPANTS FROM GOAL. CZECH REP ALSO EXPRESSED SURPRISE THAT "CERTAIN REPRESENTATIVES" (HE THEN CITED UK) WOULD DOUBT THE DEFENSIVE CHARACTER OF THE ARMED FORCES OF PARTICULAR COUNTRIES IN THE COURSE OF NEGOTIATIONS; SUCH ATTITUDES WERE NOT HELPFUL IN NEGOTIATIONS.

3. TURNING TO METHODS OF REDUCTIONS, CZECH REP SAID THAT CENTRAL THEME OF THE EASTERN APPROACH IS THAT REDUCTIONS SHOULD INVOLVE ARMED FORCES OF ALL SERVICES AND ARMAMENTS. THIS MEANT ARMIES, AIR FORCES, AND NUCLEAR UNITS. HE EMPHASIZED THAT, FROM A MILITARY POINT OF VIEW, ALL OF THESE COMPONENTS FORM A SINGLE SYSTEM, AND MILITARY APPLICATION ASSUMES THE CLOSE MUTUAL SUPPORT OF ALL OF THE COMPONENTS. REDUCTIONS MUST ALSO INVOLVE BOTH FOREIGN AND NATIONAL FORCES. IT WAS SIMPLY NOT VALID TO BEGIN WITH ONLY TWO STATES AND OMIT SUCH BIG STATES AS THE UK AND FRG. HE INVEIGHED AGAINST FOCUSING REDUCTIONS ON GROUND FORCES ALONE, SAYING THAT COULD ONLY BE AN ATTEMPT TO GAIN UNILATERAL ADVANTAGE. WITH RESPECT TO TRADEOFFS, CZECH REP STRESSED THAT REDUCTIONS SHOULD BE ON A BASIS OF APPROXIMATE SIMILARITY OF FUNCTIONS OF WHOLE UNITS WITH THEIR ARMAMENTS SUCH AS DIVISIONS, BRIGADES, AND REGIMENTS FOR GROUND FORCES, AIR REGIMENTS, WINGS AND SQUADRONS FOR AIR FORCES AND SIMILAR UNITS FOR NUCLEAR FORCES. SAYING THAT REDUCTIONS MUST BE EQUAL IN SIZE AND ARMAMENTS, HE FURTHER ILLUSTRATED HIS VIEW OF EQUAL TRADES BY STATING THAT REDUCTIONS SHOULD BE ON BASIS OF SQUADRON FOR SQUADRON, ARMORED PERSONNEL CARRIER FOR ARMORED PERSONNEL CARRIER AND JET FIGHTER FOR JET FIGHTER. ANY OTHER APPROACH TO COMPARE MILITARY FORCES WOULD ONLY CREATE DIFFICULTIES AND HAMPER AGREEMENT. CZECH REP POINTED OUT THAT WITHDRAWAL OF WHOLE UNITS

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OR SUBUNITS WOULD MAKE VERIFICATION SIMPLE. HE ADDED THAT THE REDUCTION LIST SHOULD BE A SPECIAL PROTOCOL TO THE AGREEMENT.

4. IN CLOSING, CZECH REP NOTED THAT A WEEK HAD PASSED BUT EAST HAD STILL NOT HEARD ANY WESTERN COMMENTS ON THEIR PROPOSAL. HE EXPRESSED SURPRISE THAT IN A SITUATION WHERE PARTICIPANTS HAVE SET ABOUT EXAMINING THE SUBSTANCE OF THE PROBLEM, THE ESSENTIAL DIALOGUE IS MISSING.

5. ROMANIAN REP (ANINOIU) PRESENTED STATEMENT (TEXT IN VIENNA 9476) REITERATING ROMANIAN VIEW THAT ALL STATES OF EUROPE HAVE THE RIGHT TO PARTICIPATE IN THESE NEGOTIATIONS, PRESENT THEIR VIEWPOINTS, AND DEFEND THEIR INTERESTS. HE PROPOSED THAT OTHER INTERESTED EUROPEAN STATES SHOULD BE INVITED TO TAKE PART IN THESE PROCEEDINGS BUT STOPPED SHORT OF PROPOSING ANY MODALITIES FOR DOING SO. HUMES

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